

Remarks

The Office Action mailed December 14, 2006 has been carefully considered, and Applicants' counsel offers the foregoing amendments to the claims and the following remarks. Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 13, and 21 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Reference is made to page 9, lines 21-23 of the application.

Claims 1-11, 13-21, 23, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. It is stated in the Office action that "[t]he claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention." It is further stated that the specification does not disclose that this combination of components will produce any polymer. "Specifically, the component list which is stated to produce a polymer product (i.e., a polymerization reaction is required to take place) lacks the critical component of a polymerization initiator, and therefore the claims are not enabled." Claims 1, 13, and 21 have been amended to include an initiator. In view of the amendment, the rejection of Claims 1-11, 13-21, 23, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement is considered moot and should be withdrawn.

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, Claims 1-11, 13-21, 23, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In part 4(a), Claims 1 and 21 are rejected based on the total level of neutralization can be as low as about

20%. Claims 1 and 21 have been amended. In part 4(b), it is pointed out in the Office Action that it cannot be determined whether the stated weight percentages in a) and d) are those present in the reaction system or in the resultant polymer. Claims 1 and 21 have been amended for clarification.

In view of the forgoing amendments to the claims, allowance of Claims 1-11, 13-21, and 23-24 is respectfully requested. If any issues remain unresolved, applicant would welcome the opportunity for a telephone interview to expedite allowance and issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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